

EXHIBIT A

News Watch

NY County Sues Leading Drug Companies for Medicaid Overcharging

New York Lawyer
February 10, 2005

By The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Onondaga County is suing 70 leading national pharmaceutical companies, claiming they defrauded taxpayers of millions of dollars by overcharging Medicaid through inflated drug prices.

The federal court lawsuit alleges the companies have broken state and federal Medicaid laws by committing fraud, using deceptive trade practices, and seeking "unjust enrichment."

As a result, Onondaga County overpaid Medicaid by at least \$2.5 million in 2003, said attorney Joanne Cicala.

The lawsuit alleges the overcharging has gone on since 1992 but County Attorney Anthony Rivizzigno said the county has not been able to determine an exact amount it was defrauded.

The alleged overpricing amount depends on the drug and ranges from 5 percent to 30 percent, Cicala said. The county is seeking triple damages, she said.

The county claims the drug companies reported an inflated average wholesale prices, thereby making Medicaid's cost excessive. The companies inflated the wholesale cost through tacit agreements, express agreements, or "just by watching each other," Cicala said.

Medicaid is a federal program funded by local, state and federal taxes that provides health care to the poor and disabled.

Calls seeking comment from the drug companies' trade group, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, were not immediately returned.

Four other counties _ Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester and Nassau _ and New York City have filed similar lawsuits since January 2003, Cicala said. Another 20 counties have contacted Cicala's law firm about the possibility of filing similar lawsuits, she said.

EXHIBIT B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER,

Plaintiff,

- against -

ABBOTT LABORATORIES, INC.,
AGOURON PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.,
AMGEN, INC., ASTRAZENECA
PHARMACEUTICALS L.P., ASTRAZENECA
US, BARR LABORATORIES, INC., BAYER
CORPORATION, BAYER PHARMACEUTICALS,
BERLEX LABORATORIES, INC., BIOGEN, INC.,
BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM CORPORATION,
BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY,
ELI LILLY AND COMPANY, FOREST
PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., FUJISAWA
HEALTHCARE, LTD., GILEAD SCIENCES, INC.,
GLAXO WELLCOME, P.L.C.,
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PLC, IMMUNEX
CORPORATION, IVAX CORPORATION,
IVAX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., JANSSEN
PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, LP, JOHNSON
& JOHNSON, MEDIMMUNE, INC., MERCK & CO.,
INC., NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS
CORPORATION, ORTHO BIOTECH PRODUCTS,
LP, ORTHO MCNEIL PHARMACEUTICAL, INC.,
PFIZER INC., PHARMACIA CORPORATION,
SANOFI-SYNTHELABO, INC., SCHERING-
PLOUGH CORP., SMITHKLINEBEECHAM P.L.C.,
SMITHKLINEBEECHAM CORPORATION,
TAKEDA CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LTD.,
TAKEDA PHARMACEUTICALS NORTH
AMERICA, INC., TAP PHARMACEUTICAL
PRODUCTS, INC., WARRICK
PHARMACEUTICALS LTD, WYETH, and
DOES 1-100,

Defendants.
-----X

Docket No. 03 CV 6178 (CM)

**STIPULATION TO
EXTEND TIME**

Plaintiff and served defendants, by and through the undersigned counsel, enter into the following stipulation, and respectfully request that the stipulation be so ordered by the Court:

Whereas, the County of Westchester filed the Complaint in the instant action on August 29, 2003 (the "Westchester Complaint"); and

Whereas, the Complaint involves certain common questions of fact and law with a multi-district litigation currently pending before Judge Patti B. Saris in the District of Massachusetts captioned *In re Pharmaceutical Industry Average Wholesale Price Litigation*, MDL 1456; and

Whereas, on September 5, 2003, defendants filed a Notice of Related Action with the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation requesting transfer of this action to the District of Massachusetts for consolidated or coordinated pre-trial proceedings with the other cases included in MDL 1456, and plaintiff does not oppose transfer; and

Whereas, one of the actions included within MDL 1456 is an action filed by the County of Suffolk ("Suffolk Action");

Whereas, the Westchester Complaint contains similar allegations and claims against certain of the same defendants as the Amended Complaint filed by the County of Suffolk in MDL 1456 ("Suffolk Amended Complaint"); and

Whereas, defendants in the Suffolk Action are scheduled to file motions to dismiss the Suffolk Amended Complaint by September 15, 2003; and

Whereas, judicial economy would be best served if the motions to dismiss the Suffolk Amended Complaint are decided by Judge Saris before defendants in this action respond to the Westchester Complaint;

Therefore, the parties hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

As to all defendants who have been served with process or have waived service of process, the time to answer or otherwise respond to the Westchester Complaint shall be extended until the later of (a) 30 days after the posting on Verilaw of Judge Saris's decision on the Suffolk defendants' motions to dismiss the Suffolk


Amended Complaint, or (b) the time otherwise permitted pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The undersigned attorney for defendant AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP has been authorized to request this extension on behalf of all served defendants, and it is stipulated and agreed by the parties hereto that the extension will be granted to all served defendants.

IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED.

DATED: September 11, 2003

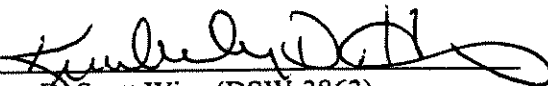
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

DATED: September 12, 2003

By


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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT
ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS LP

SO ORDERED:

United States District Judge

DATED: September __, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Laura Laux Higgins, hereby certify that on September 16, 2003 I caused a true copy of the foregoing Stipulation To Extend Time to be served by United States first class mail on all counsel on the attached list.

Dated: New York, New York
September 16, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Laux Higgins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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EXHIBIT C

RECEIVED
OCT 17 PM 6:00
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SONY
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

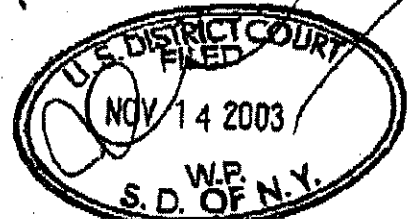
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND,

Plaintiff,

- against -

ABBOTT LABORATORIES, INC.,
AGOURON PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.,
AMGEN INC., ASTRAZENECA
PHARMACEUTICALS L.P., ASTRAZENECA
US, AVENTIS BEHRING L.L.C., AVENTIS
PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., BARR LABORATORIES,
INC., BAXTER INTERNATIONAL, BAYER BIOLOGICAL,
BAYER CORPORATION, BAYER PHARMACEUTICALS,
BIOGEN, INC., BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY,
ELI LILLY AND COMPANY, FOREST
PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., GENZYME CORPORATION,
GLAXO WELLCOME, P.L.C.,
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PLC, IMMUNEX
CORPORATION, JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICAL
PRODUCTS, LP, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, MEDIMMUNE,
INC., MERCK & CO., INC., NOVARTIS
PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION, ORTHO
BIOTECH PRODUCTS, LP, ORTHO MCNEIL
PHARMACEUTICAL, INC., PAR PHARMACEUTICALS
CORPORATION, PFIZER INC., PHARMACIA
CORPORATION, SANOFI-SYNTHELABO, INC.,
SCHERING-PLOUGH CORP., SMITHKLINEBEECHAM
P.L.C., SMITHKLINEBEECHAM CORPORATION,
TAP PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, INC.,
UCB PHARMA, WARRICK PHARMACEUTICALS
LTD, WYETH, and DOES 1-100,

Defendants.



Docket No. 03 CV 0178 (CM)

STIPULATION TO
EXTEND TIME

Plaintiff and served defendants, by and through the undersigned counsel, enter into the following stipulation, and respectfully request that the stipulation be so ordered by the Court:

Whereas, the County of Rockland filed the Complaint in the instant action on September 10, 2003 (the "Rockland Complaint"); and

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Whereas, the Complaint involves certain common questions of fact and law with a multi-district litigation currently pending before Judge Patti B. Saris in the District of Massachusetts captioned *In re Pharmaceutical Industry Average Wholesale Price Litigation*, MDL 1456; and

Whereas, on September 30, 2003, defendants filed a Notice of Related Action with the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation requesting transfer of this action to the District of Massachusetts for consolidated or coordinated pre-trial proceedings with the other cases included in MDL 1456, and plaintiff does not oppose transfer; and

Whereas, one of the actions included within MDL 1456 is an action filed by the County of Suffolk ("Suffolk Action");

Whereas, the Rockland Complaint contains similar allegations and claims against certain of the same defendants as the Amended Complaint filed by the County of Suffolk in MDL 1456 ("Suffolk Amended Complaint"); and

Whereas, defendants in the Suffolk Action filed motions to dismiss the Suffolk Amended Complaint on September 15, 2003; and

Whereas, judicial economy would be best served if the motions to dismiss the Suffolk Amended Complaint are decided by Judge Saris before defendants in this action respond to the Rockland Complaint;

Whereas, a similar stipulation is currently before this Court in a similar case brought by Westchester County, New York, postponing the obligation of the defendants in that action to respond to that complaint until after Judge Saris decides the motions to dismiss addressed to the Suffolk Amended Complaint;

Therefore, the parties hereby stipulate and agree as follows:


As to all defendants who have been served with process or have waived service of process, the time to answer or otherwise respond to the Rockland Complaint shall be extended until the later of (a) 30 days after the posting on Verilaw of Judge Saris's decision on the Suffolk defendants' motions to dismiss the Suffolk Amended Complaint, or (b) the time otherwise permitted pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The undersigned attorney for defendant AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP has been authorized to request this extension on behalf of all served defendants, and it is stipulated and agreed by the parties hereto that the extension will be granted to all served defendants.

IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED.

DATED: October 8, 2003

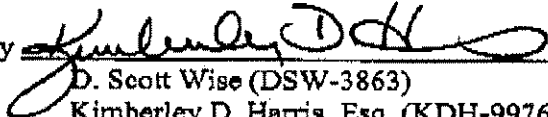
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DATED: October 16, 2003

By


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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT
ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS LP

SO ORDERED:


United States District Judge

DATED: October 29, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Laura Laux Higgins, hereby certify that on October 17, 2003 I caused a true copy of the foregoing Stipulation To Extend Time to be served by United States first class mail on all counsel on the attached list.

Dated: New York, New York
October 17, 2003

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Laura Laux Higgins

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